

PATENT APPLICATION

Mobile Telephone Call Quality Indicator

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

The present invention is directed generally to mobile telephones.

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION

This application is based on and claims priority from U.S. Provisional Patent Application Serial No. 60/239,810 filed on October 12, 2000.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Cellular and digital mobile telephone devices have become widely used over the past several years. As much as the field has advanced, the quality of transmissions and receptions is not always perfect and therefore some phone conversations are abruptly terminated while one or both parties is speaking. Present mobile phones have visual

indicators that show the status of calls and offer other features such as address books and email.

Sometimes a conversation is of poor quality and reception is intermittent. In such cases, one or both parties yell back and forth to see if the other can hear.

### SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention solves the problem of knowing when a communication channel is of poor quality and of knowing when a communication channel has been lost or terminated.

According to one aspect of the present invention, an audio announcement pre-recorded and resident on the mobile phone device will announce the termination of each call.

According to another aspect of the present invention, an audio announcement pre-recorded and resident on the mobile phone device will announce the potential loss of communications upon receipt of a "Bad-Connection" signal.

Accordingly, one feature of the present invention is to provide a means for indicating the termination of a phone call when visual inspection of any indicators is not convenient or possible.

Another feature is to provide a service for mobile phone users that allows for the generation, transmission, reception, and processing of a "Bad-Connection" distress signal, where said distress signal is relatively impervious to transmission errors.

Another feature is to provide a means for indicating that the other party may not hear the user of a phone when visual inspection of any indicators is not convenient or possible.

Another feature is to provide a means for indicating that the user of a phone is having difficulty hearing the other party when visual indicators are not convenient or useful.

Additional advantages and novel features of the invention will be set forth in, and become apparent to those skilled in the art from the description which follows.

#### BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

For a fuller understanding of the invention, reference is had to the following description taken in connection with the accompanying drawings, in which:

Figure 1. Shows a sample phone device with a "Bad-Connection" button.

Figure 2. Shows a sample protocol for a "Bad-Connection" service

#### DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE EMBODIMENTS OF THE INVENTION

Embodiments of a system built in accordance with the present invention will now be described with continued reference to the Figures.

An example of a distress button (100) on a telephone (50) is shown in Figure 1. The distress button (100) causes to be generated a distress signal (101) of some particular digital bit-pattern (110) stored or generated within the telephone (50) which would be relatively robust in a noisy channel and which would have a good chance of being delivered recognizably to a receiver. The distress signal (110) can be produced